

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 25, 2005 (BOS Mtg. 6/7/05)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: James O. McReynolds, County Administrator

SUBJECT: U. S. Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant and Replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus

The U. S. Department of Homeland Security Office of Domestic Preparedness offers a national competitive grant program known as the "Assistance to Firefighters Grant." The intent of the program is to assist fire departments across the nation with their resource needs. The York County Department of Fire and Life Safety had previously identified a need to replace its aging, out of date self-contained breathing apparatus and, therefore, this grant initiative met that need. Self-contained breathing apparatus is the equipment that firefighters wear that allows them to breathe fresh air through a mask supplied by a compressed air cylinder. Much like protective clothing, it is a required component for safe firefighting operations. Thus, the department submitted the competitive grant request within the appropriate guidelines. The department was fortunate in that it was successful in receiving the federal grant in the amount of \$135,485, which requires a 30 percent match in the amount of \$58,065. This 30 percent match will be funded through previously appropriated State Fire Programs Aid to Localities Grant funds. Further, since the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant did not allow for the needed complete replacement of all of the department's self-contained breathing apparatus, the department plans to fund the remaining units in the amount of \$117,138 through a separate U. S. Department of Homeland Security Grant that was previously accepted and appropriated. This initiative, which totals \$310,688, provides the much-needed replacement of existing equipment using State and Federal grant funds without having to expend County general fund dollars.

Also, a competitive bid process was conducted and resulted in the determination that Fire Protection Equipment Company was the lowest, most responsive and responsible bidder and thus is the recommended vendor. The procurement has been conducted in accordance with State procurement laws and/or County procurement policy.

Proposed Resolution R05-112 accepts and appropriates the Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grant funds up to the amount of \$135,485. It further authorizes the County Administrator to procure the necessary self-contained breathing apparatus and associated equipment in the amount of \$310,688.

I recommend approval of proposed Resolution R05-112.

Kopczynski/3612:ese